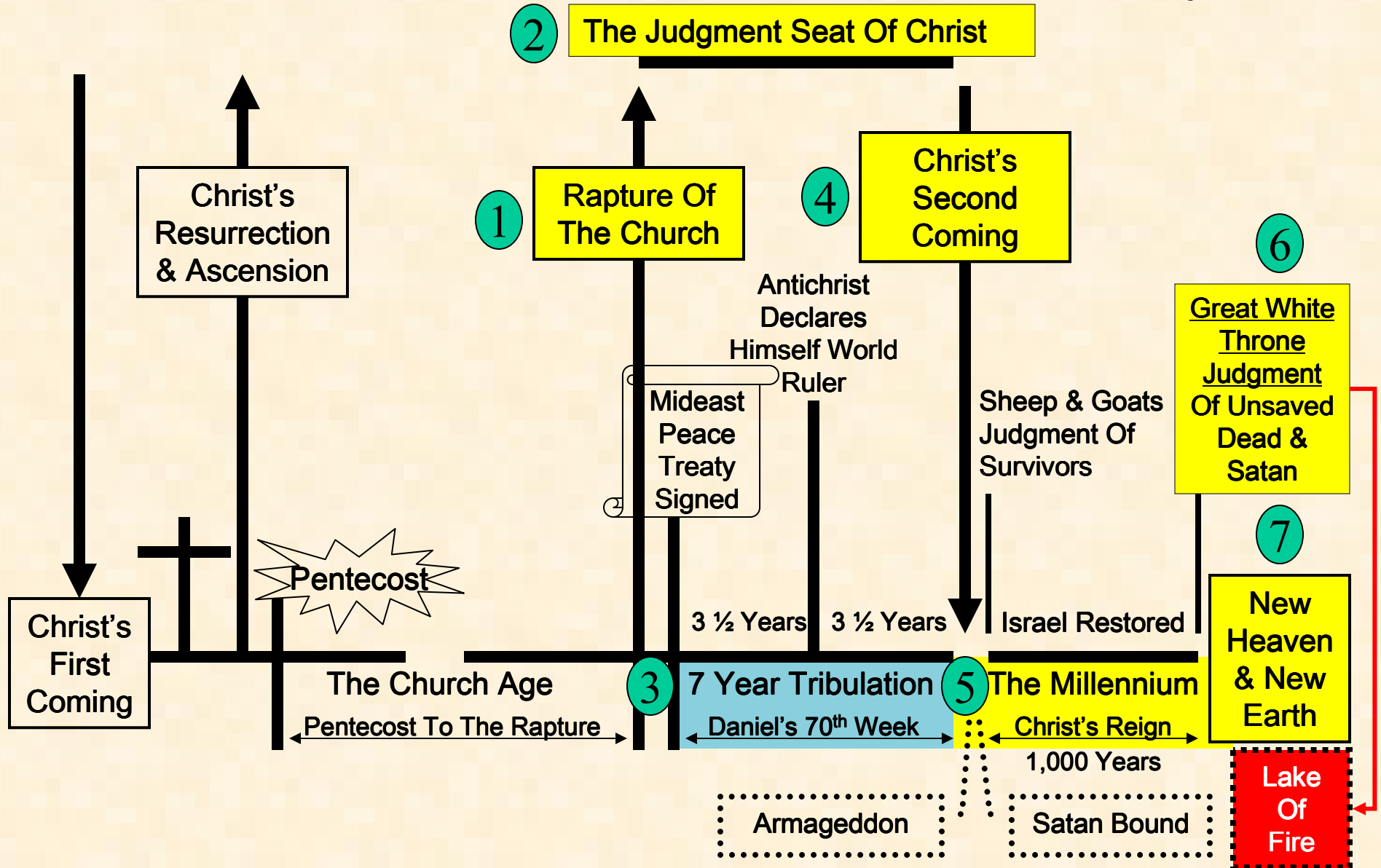


Order Of Events In Bible Prophecy



The Tribulation Period

THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE TRIBULATION

- God always has excellent reasons for doing what He does.
- Scripture indicates two major purposes for the existence of the Tribulation Period.
- **FIRST PURPOSE** – **To judge wicked, unbelieving men and nations for their sinfulness.**
- During the days of the Tribulation, God will deal with all the nations of the world.
- Revelation 3:10 (NKJV) **Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

The Tribulation Period

THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE TRIBULATION

- In the three series of judgments in the Tribulation (the seals, trumpets and bowls), the nations of the earth will receive deserved retribution for their wickedness. These judgments are another step in dealing with sin in preparation for the Messiah's righteous reign on earth.
- **This will be the ultimate fulfillment on earth of Romans 1:18-19 (NKJV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.**

The Tribulation Period

THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **SECOND PURPOSE** – To bring salvation to the nation of Israel, preparing them for the Messianic kingdom.
- Scripture indicates that the Tribulation has a definite Jewish character (e.g. Jer. 30:7 – “**time of Jacob’s trouble**”)
- In Daniel 9:24-27, the central passage on the subject, God’s six great goals revolve around “**Daniel’s people**” and “**Daniel’s holy city.**”
- These goals focus primarily on the spiritual restoration of Israel, though their physical restoration would be included as well.
- The basis for their salvation, which is necessary for their entrance into the Messianic kingdom, was taken care of at the Cross.

The Tribulation Period

THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE TRIBULATION

- However, the people as a nation have never come to receive God's righteousness based on the Cross.
- Instead, they have stubbornly insisted on establishing their own righteousness. Before they will turn to God, He must break their stubborn will, and He does this through the terrible events of the tribulation.
- God intends to break the will of the nation of Israel in order to bring about a national regeneration. We see this in Daniel 12:5-7.

The Tribulation Period

THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE TRIBULATION

- After hearing what the conditions will be like for his people during the Tribulation in Daniel 11:36-1:4, a question is raised as to how long this period will be allowed to continue.
- **Daniel 12:5-7 (NKJV)** Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power (I.e “will”) of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

The Tribulation Period

THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE TRIBULATION

- When this happens, Israel will become a believing nation and God will have fulfilled His purpose.
- **Romans 11:25-27 (NKJV)** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”
- The New Covenant that God had made with Israel in Jeremiah 31 will be fulfilled.

The Tribulation Period

THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NKJV)** “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- God and Satan are the key persons involved in the great conflict of the Tribulation period. However, the Scriptures speak of a number of human personalities who play significant roles in that unfolding drama of The Tribulation Period.
- The most significant individual is the man commonly called the Antichrist.

The man called Antichrist and his False Prophet

- The Scriptures refer to him using a number of different titles that reveal something of his character.
- It is interesting that the title people use most often of him (the Antichrist) is really used only ONCE in the Bible.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **1 John 2:18 (NKJV)** Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.
- The title itself, however, is a good one because it says something significant about his character and intentions.
- The Greek preposition “**anti**” can carry the idea of **opposition**. The Antichrist is very much against Christ and His purposes.
- The same preposition can convey the idea of “**in place of**” or being a substitute. That would also hold true of the Antichrist, since it seems that he will be Satan’s substitute Messiah.
- He is known by other names a well.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV)** *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*
- These titles emphasize his personal wickedness as he lives outside of the laws established by God.
- In Revelation 13 and 17, he is frequently called “the beast,” which sees him as wildly hostile to God.
- In Daniel 7:8 he is called the “little horn.” The term “horn” was often used in the OT to describe a king’s power. Daniel 7 speaks of his pride, aggressiveness and hostility toward God.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- He will be a man of great ability who is empowered uniquely by Satan.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:9 (NKJV) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**
- Scripture also suggests that he will have great leadership and oratorical ability which will enable him to persuade multitudes to follow him.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:10 (NKJV) and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**
- Scripture suggests four phases to his career in the Tribulation.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

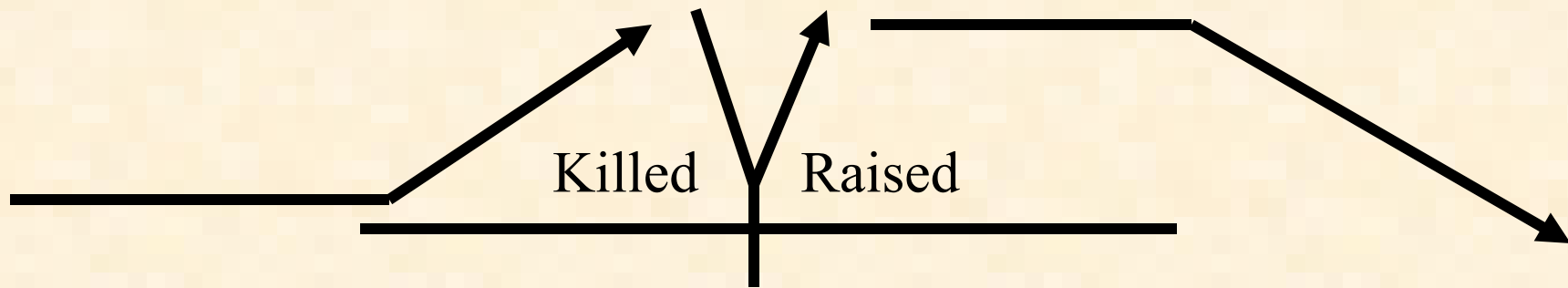
The Career Of The Antichrist

1) A political leader of a western nation

2) Ruler of the restored Roman Empire

3) Dictator of all nations of the earth

4) Defeated by Christ – sent to Lake of Fire



The Tribulation Period

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- As we have already observed, the Tribulation begins when the Antichrist signs a covenant with the nation of Israel guaranteeing their safety (Daniel 9:24-27). After that he consolidates his power over the ten other Western nations (the restored or revived Roman empire) and rules for most of the first three and a half years of the Tribulation. With this power, he is able to function as Israel's protector.
- Let's look at some of the key Scripture passages that unfold the career of the Antichrist.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- The first seal judgment of Revelation speaks of his intent to conquer. Notice that he has a bow, but no arrow.
- **Revelation 6:1-2 (NKJV)** Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” And I looked, and behold, a white horse. **He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.**
- In Daniel 7, the “little horn” (the Antichrist) is seen coming out of a restored Roman empire. He begins by subduing three of the ten nations in the empire. Let’s compare Daniel 2, 7 and 8 before we focus on Daniel 7.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

(BKC [OT] p. 1356)

A Comparison of Daniel 2; 7; and 8

Daniel 2 Metals	Daniel 7 Animals	Daniel 8 Animals	Nations
Gold	Winged lion	—	Babylon
Silver	Bear	Ram	Medo-Persia
Bronze	Winged leopard	Goat	Greece
Iron (and iron and clay)	Beast	—	Rome

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 7:7-8 (NKJV)** “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.
- Here we see a “**little horn**”, representing the strong nation that comes up in the midst of the revived Roman empire.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 7:9-12 (NKJV)** “I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. “I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 7:13-14 (NKJV)** “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.
- In the horizon of Daniel 7 is the Ancient of Days to whom belongs an everlasting kingdom which shall not be destroyed. This, of course, is the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 7:15-18 (NKJV)** “I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: ‘Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.’”
- **Daniel 7:19-20 (NKJV)** “Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.”

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 7:21-22 (NKJV)** “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.
- **Daniel 7:23-25 (NKJV)** “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.”

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Daniel 7:26-28 (NKJV)** ‘But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever. Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’ “This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart.”
- Revelation 13 is another key passage about the Antichrist. Here we learn that he will be assassinated near the midpoint of the Tribulation. But, he is restored to life and becomes the object of worldwide worship (along with Satan).

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

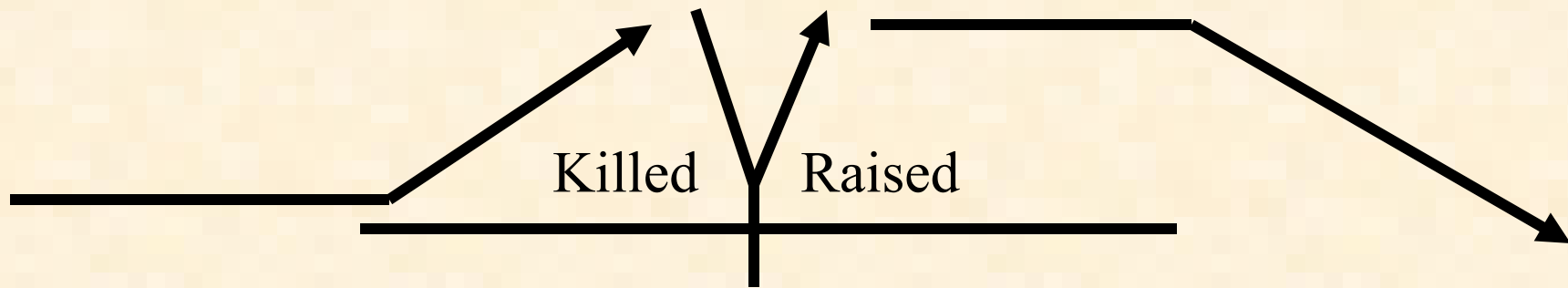
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The Tribulation Period

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

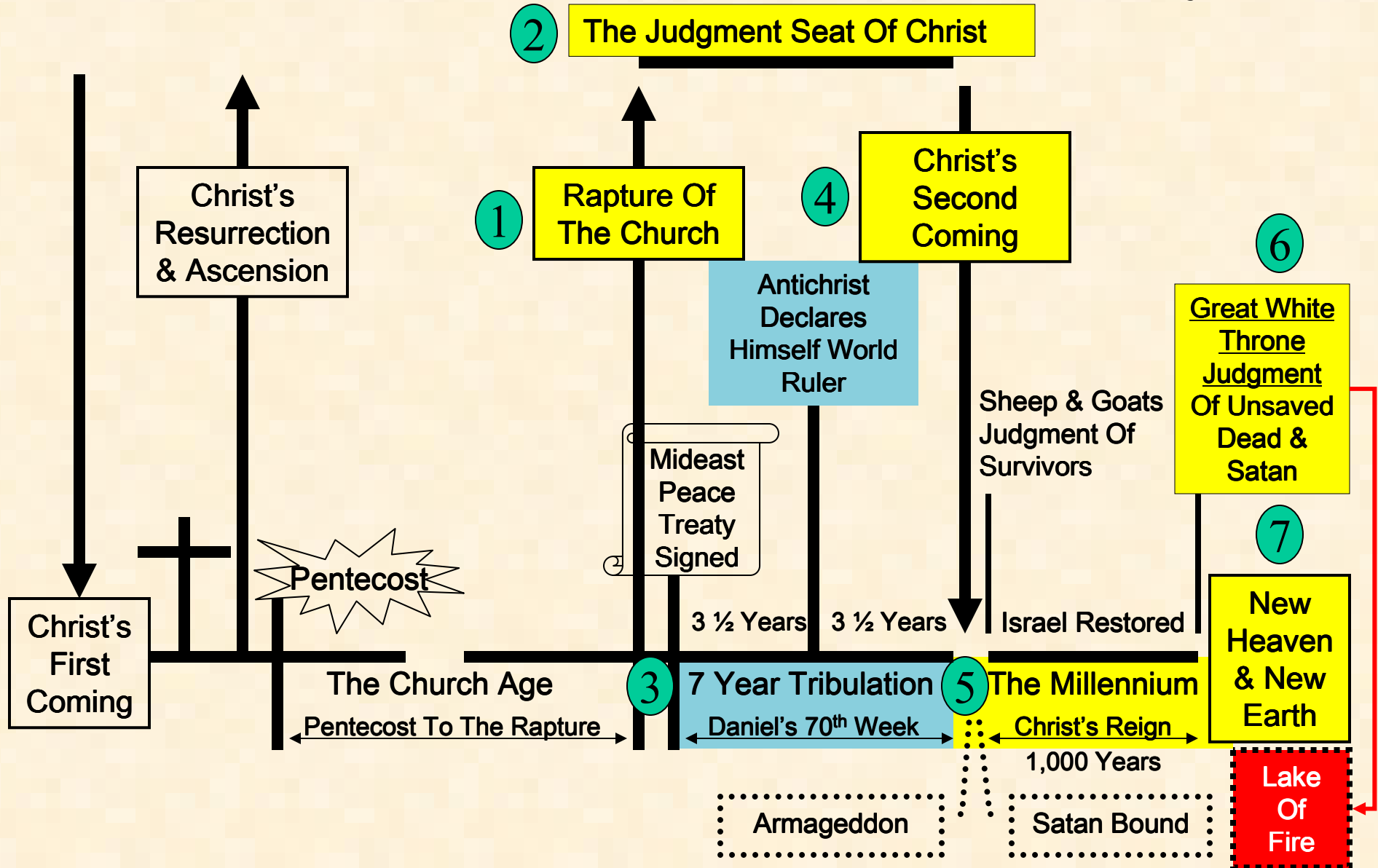
- **Revelation 13:1-4 (NKJV)** Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”
- Satan is referred to as “the dragon” in Revelation.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- John goes on to describe **world dictatorship** of the Antichrist in the **final 42 months** of the Tribulation Period.
- **Revelation 13:5-8 (NKJV)** *And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*
- It seems that for most of this time the world follows after him, but it may be that toward the end significant rebellion against his rulership takes place. This will lead to Armageddon.

Order Of Events In Bible Prophecy



The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- Revelation 13:11-18 reveals another person who is prominent in the Tribulation, called “**another beast.**”
- **Revelation 13:11-14 (NKJV)** Then I saw **another beast** coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth— by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.
- His power will come from Satan, and his authority will be delegated to him from Antichrist.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **Revelation 13:15-18 (NKJV)** He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.
- With his use of miracles and wonders, he leads the world in worshiping the image of the Antichrist and kills those people who will not do so.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- The evidence from Revelation 13 is that economics and religion will be inseparably linked together during this time. Those who refuse to worship the Antichrist not only face death, but will not receive the “**mark of the beast**” (666), which is essential for any buying and selling.
- The miracles and signs that he will perform, such as calling fire down from heaven, will probably be used as evidence to validate his claim to be the Elijah who would come before “**the great and terrible day of the Lord**” (Mal. 4:5-6). If so, the Antichrist will be promoted as the true Messiah.
- This is confirmed by the focus on the temple in Jerusalem during the 2nd half of the Tribulation where the image of the Antichrist is set up and worshiped.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- This second beast is elsewhere called the “false prophet.”
- **Revelation 16:13 (NKJV)** And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.
- **Revelation 19:20 (NKJV)** Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.
- This title indicates that he is a religious leader who has the ability to work miracles, which will be important in deceiving the unbelieving world into worshiping the Antichrist.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- Another key passage about the beast and the false prophet is 2 Thessalonians 2.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 (NKJV)** Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- **2 Thessalonians 2:5-12 (NKJV)** Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- The deceptions and works of the Antichrist and false prophet will come to a halting conclusion at the 2nd Coming of Christ. Their demise is described in Revelation 19.
- **Revelation 19:19-20 (NKJV)** *And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*
- They will actually be the first inhabitants of the Lake of Fire. Satan will be the next, and then the unsaved dead.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

APPLICATION

- **1 John 2:18 (NKJV)** Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.
- We need to be constantly on guard against our enemy, the Devil, who is opposing the work of Christ in our day. He uses “**many antichrists**” to lead people astray. We need to be careful that we aren’t deceived and deluded by false teaching.
- **Colossians 2:8 (NKJV)** Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

The Tribulation Period

SOME KEY PERSONALITIES OF THE TRIBULATION

- We need to put on the full armor of God every day.
- **Ephesians 6:10-13 (NKJV)** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.